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Specification

1. Title of the Invention

An abnormality warning system for engine cooling water system

2. Claim:

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An abnormality warning system for engine cooling water system comprising: a water temperature sensor disposed at a cooling water passage through an engine; an engine speed sensor for sensing a rotational speed of the engine; a control unit for performing a predetermined operation based on the sensed values given by the sensors and outputting a signal generated from the result of the operation; and a warning device activated by said signal outputted from said control unit,

said control unit comprising: temperature difference calculating means for calculating a fluctuation of water temperature during a predetermined time period following engine start; and temperature difference judging means for making

judgment by comparing the temperature difference given by the temperature difference calculating means with a predetermined reference temperature difference,

the warning system operating to give a warning about abnormality of said engine cooling water system.

3. Detailed Description of the Invention

[Industrial Field of Application]

The present invention relates to a warning system adapted to detect abnormality of a cooling water system for engine and to give a warning about the abnormality. More particularly, the invention relates to the warning system adapted to detect the abnormality of the cooling water system for engine based on the fluctuations of cooling water temperature.

[Prior Art]

Examples of the conventional warning system of this type include: a warning system, as disclosed in JP-A-57-88214, which activates a warning device when a comparison value exceeds a set value, the comparison value determined by comparing data obtained by detecting an engine cooling fluid condition as an electrical signal based on a freezing temperature thereof with data obtained by detecting an outside-air temperature as an electrical signal; a warning system, as disclosed in JP-A-58-82043, which provides a feedback control of an engine speed to adjust a fluctuated engine speed to a predetermined

value when a sensor system for sensing the temperature of engine cooling water detects abnormality by means of a diagnostic circuit; and the like.

[Problems to Be Solved by the Invention]

The aforementioned prior-art systems have the following problems. The former system merely affords a measure for obviating a failure resulting from the freeze-up of a radiator in a nonoperational state of the engine. A drawback of the latter system is as follows. When the cooling water temperature fluctuates sharply due to a failure of the cooling water system, for instance, what the latter system can do in this state is to detect the abnormal temperature of the cooling water and to control the engine speed. Accordingly, the latter system falls short of offering information necessary for restoring a malfunctioning portion to a working order.

The invention is directed to a solution to such problems. It is an object of the invention to provide an abnormality warning system for engine cooling water system, which is adapted to detect abnormality or failure of the engine cooling water system during warm-up time following engine start, thus serving for the purpose of preventing an engine from operating in an abnormal state caused by such abnormality.

[Means for Solving the Problems]

In accordance with the invention for achieving the above object, an abnormality warning system comprises: a water temperature sensor disposed at a cooling water passage through an engine; an engine speed sensor for sensing the rotational speed of the engine; a control unit for performing a predetermined operation based on sensed values given by the sensors and outputting a signal generated from the result of the operation; and a warning device activated by the signal outputted from the control unit, the control unit comprising: temperature difference calculating means for calculating a fluctuation of water temperature during a predetermined time period following engine start; and temperature difference judging means for making judgment by comparing the temperature difference given by the temperature difference calculating means with a predetermined reference temperature difference, the warning system giving a warning about abnormality of the cooling water system for engine.

[Operations]

According to the above arrangement, when the temperature difference associated with the water temperature fluctuations during the predetermined time period following engine start is smaller than the predetermined reference temperature difference, the control unit applies the output signal to the warning device which, in turn, gives a warning about the

abnormality or failure of the cooling water system.

[Embodiment]

Referring to the accompanying drawings, one embodiment of the invention will be described as below.

Referring to Fig. 1, a reference character 1 represents an engine; a reference character 2 represents an injector driven by an output signal from a control unit 3 for injecting a fuel into the engine 1, the fuel supplied from a fuel tank 4 by means of a fuel pump 5; a reference character 6 represents a throttle valve assembled in a throttle body 8 and operative to control the amount of suction air supplied via a suction pipe 7; and a reference character 9 represents a starter switch.

An output signal from the starter switch 9, an output signal from a cylinder-associated internal pressure sensor 10 for sensing the internal pressure of an air cylinder of the engine 1, an output signal from an engine speed sensor 11, and an output signal from a water temperature sensor 12 disposed at a cooling water passage through the engine 1 are applied to the control unit 3. The signals along with a time variable defined and counted by a timer 23 (to be described hereinlater) are used to perform a desired operation, the timer disposed in the control unit 3. Judgment is made as to whether the temperature of the cooling water in the engine 1 is at an abnormal level or not. When the water temperature is determined to be

at the abnormal level, the control unit 3 provides an output signal to activate a warning device 13.

At the time of engine start, it is possible to detect an event that the concentration of an antifreeze solution deviates from a normal concentration so that the cooling water is frozen in the cooling water passage and is not circulated normally.

Referring to Fig. 2, description is made on an arrangement and a control function of the control unit 3.

When applied with the output signal from the starter switch 9, an output signal P1 from the cylinder-associated internal pressure sensor 10 for sensing the internal pressure of the air cylinder of the engine 1, and an output signal Ne from the engine speed sensor 11, engine driven-state judging means 20 determines the engine 1 to be in complete explosion condition and then outputs a signal to warm-up rotational speed detecting means 21.

Based on the output signal applied when the engine driven-state judging means 20 determines the engine 1 to be in complete explosion condition and on the output signal from the engine speed sensor 11, the warm-up rotational speed detecting means 21 detects a warm-up rotational speed Nei and then outputs a signal to complete-explosion water temperature detecting means 22. Based on an output signal Tw from the water temperature sensor 12 and the signal indicative of the warm-up

rotational speed Nei outputted from the warm-up rotational speed detecting means 21, the complete-explosion water temperature detecting means 22 detects a water temperature at complete explosion Tw_1 .

On the other hand, the engine driven-state judging means 20 outputs the signal to the timer 23 which counts a predetermined time period t sec. After the lapse of the predetermined time period, the timer outputs a signal to elapsed-time detecting means 24, which outputs a signal to water temperature detecting means 25. When applied with the output signal from the elapsed-time detecting means 24, the water temperature detecting means 25 detects a water temperature Tw₂ based on the output signal from the water temperature sensor 12.

Temperature difference calculating means 26 calculates a temperature difference Δtw based on the water temperature Tw_1 given by the complete-explosion water temperature detecting means 22 and the water temperature water Tw_2 given by the water temperature detecting means 25 and then, outputs to temperature difference judging means 28 a signal indicative of $\Delta tw = Tw_2 - Tw_1$. On the other hand, reference temperature-difference setting means 27 defines a reference temperature difference Δt_0 based on the warm-up rotational speed Nei given by the warm-up rotational speed detecting means 21. The temperature difference judging means 28 compares the temperature difference Δtw determined by the temperature difference calculating means

26 with the reference temperature difference Δt_0 defined by the reference temperature-difference setting means 27. When the temperature difference Δt_0 is smaller than the reference temperature difference Δt_0 , the temperature difference judging means 28 outputs a signal to the warning device 13 for giving a warning about the abnormality of the cooling water system.

Next, the operations of the invention based on the aforementioned arrangement will be described with reference to a flow chart of Fig. 3.

At Step S101 firstly, determination is made as to whether the starter switch 9 is ON or not. If the starter switch 9 is ON, the operation flow proceeds to Step S102 to determine whether the engine 1 is in complete explosion condition or not. If the engine 1 is in complete explosion condition, the operation flow proceeds to Step S103 to set the timer 23 and then proceeds to Step S104 to detect the water temperature at complete explosion tw_1 .

Next, at Step S105, determination is made as to whether the timer 23 indicates the lapse of the predetermined time period t sec or not. If the predetermined time period t sec has elapsed, the operation flow proceeds to Step S106 to detect the water temperature Tw_2 after the lapse of the predetermined time period. At Step S107, the temperature difference Δtw between the complete-explosion water temperature Tw_1 and the water temperature after the lapse of the predetermined time period

 Tw_2 is calculated. At Step S108, the resultant temperature difference Δtw is compared with the reference temperature difference Δt_0 . If the temperature difference Δtw is smaller than the reference temperature difference Δt_0 , the operation flow proceeds to Step S109 to activate the warning device 13 for giving a warning about the abnormality or failure of the cooling water system.

As described above, the abnormality of the cooling water system is judged based on the temperature difference Δtw between the cooling water temperature Tw_1 immediately after the complete explosion condition of the engine 1 and the cooling water temperature Tw_2 after the lapse of the predetermined time period from the complete explosion. Therefore, it is ensured that the circulating conditions of the cooling water are unerringly grasped.

While the embodiment uses a combination of the signals from the cylinder-associated internal pressure sensor 10 and the engine speed sensor 11 as the input signal to the engine driven-state judging means 20, the input signal may consists of the signal from the engine speed sensor 11. In this case, the driven state of the engine may be judged based on a rotational speed of the engine which is idling after warm-up, such as 600 to 800 rpm.

On the other hand, the set value for the timer 23 may be empirically decided based on warm-up water temperature

characteristics of the engine. The set value may be so decided as to include a time required for the water temperature to stabilize.

[Advantages of the Invention]

As described above, the invention ensures that the circulating conditions of the cooling water are unerringly grasped because the invention is arranged to calculate the temperature difference associated with the temperature fluctuations of the engine cooling water during the predetermined time period following engine start and to compare the temperature difference associated with the temperature fluctuations of the cooling water with the reference temperature difference thereby to determine the presence of the abnormality or failure of the cooling water system.

Furthermore, the invention makes judgment when the engine is in the warm-up state, thus providing an early detection of the abnormality or failure of the cooling water system. Accordingly, the engine can be protected from an unexpected accident.

In addition, the invention is adapted to warn an operator about the abnormality of the cooling water system thereby permitting the operator to take a prompt action to cope with the abnormality.

- 4. Brief Description of the Drawings
- Fig. 1 is a schematic diagram showing the overall arrangement of the invention;
 - Fig. 2 is a block diagram showing a control unit; and
- Fig. 3 is a flow chart showing the operations of the invention.
- 1: ENGINE, 3: CONTROL UNIT, 11: ENGINE SPEED SENSOR, 12: WATER
 TEMPERATURE SENSOR, 26: TEMPERATURE DIFFERENCE CALCULATING
 MEANS, 28: TEMPERATURE DIFFERENCE JUDGING MEANS

FIG. 1

- 13: WARNING DEVICE
- 9: STARTER SWITCH
- 11: ENGINE SPEED SENSOR
- 3: CONTROL UNIT
- 10: CYLINDER-ASSOCIATED INTERNAL PRESSURE SENSOR

FIG. 2

- 9: STARTER SWITCH
- 10: CYLINDER-ASSOCIATED INTERNAL PRESSURE SENSOR
- 11: ENGINE SPEED SENSOR
- 12: WATER TEMPERATURE SENSOR
- 20: ENGINE DRIVEN-STATE JUDGING MEANS
- 21: WARM-UP ROTATIONAL SPEED DETECTING MEANS
- 22: COMPLETE-EXPLOSION WATER TEMPERATURE DETECTING MEANS
- 25: WATER TEMPERATURE DETECTING MEANS
- 26: TEMPERATURE DIFFERENCE CALCULATING MEANS
- 27: REFERENCE TEMPERATURE-DIFFERENCE SETTING MEANS
- 28: TEMPERATURE DIFFERENCE JUDGING MEANS
- 13: WARNING DEVICE
- 23: TIMER
- 24: ELAPSED-TIME DETECTING MEANS

FIG. 3

START

S101: STARTER SWITCH ON?

S102: ENGINE IN COMPLETE EXPLOSION CONDITION?

S103: SET TIMER (COUNT t sec)

S104: DETECT COMPLETE-EXPLOSION WATER TEMPERATURE tw1

S105: ELAPSED TIME > t sec?

S106: DETECT WATER TEMPERATURE Tw2

S107: CALCULATE TEMPERATURE DIFFERENCE Δtw ($\Delta tw = Tw_2 - Tw_1$)

S108: TEMPERATURE DIFFERENCE Atw SMALLER THAN REFERENCE

TEMPERATURE DIFFERENCE ΔT_0 ?

S109: ACTIVATE WARNING DEVICE

END

PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

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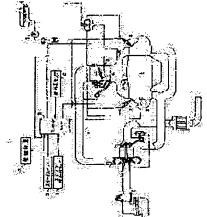
(22)Date of filing: 25.06.1987 (72)Inventor: NAITO TAKAO

(54) COOLING WATER SYSTEM ABNORMALITY ALARM DEVICE FOR ENGINE

(57)Abstract:

PURPOSE: To enable early warning of the abnormality of a cooling water system in detecting the abnormality from an engine speed and a cooling water temperature by determining the abnormality when a temperature difference due to a change in water temperature after a predetermined time after starting is not greater than the reference value.

CONSTITUTION: A control unit 3 receives detection values from a starter switch 9, cylinder inner pressure sensor 10, engine speed sensor 11, cooling water temperature sensor 12, etc. The control unit 3 carries out predetermined computation according to an engine speed and a cooling water temperature, and determines abnormality of a cooling water system. When complete explosion in an engine is detected from the engine speed and a cylinder inner pressure at starting, a complete explosion water temperature is detected from a warmed-up engine speed and an output from the water



from a warmed-up engine speed and an output from the water temperature sensor 12, and a difference between the complete explosion water temperature and a water temperature after a predetermined time. If the difference is lower than a predetermined reference temperature difference, it is determined that the cooling water system is abnormal because of freezing or the like of the cooling water system, and an alarm device 13 is operated.

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審査請求 未請求 発明の数 1 (全5頁)

49発明の名称

エンジンの冷却水系異常警報装置

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明 細 傳

1. 発明の名称

エンジンの冷却水系異常磐報装置

2.特許請求の範囲

エンジンの冷却水路に扱けられた水温センサと、 エンジン回転数を検出するエンジン回転数センサ と、上記各センサの検出値に基づいて所定の演算 を行い、この演算の結果によって得られた信号を 出力するコントロールユニットと、上記コントロ ールユニットより出力する上記信号によって作動 する整報装置とを備え、

上記コントロールユニットを、エンジン始動徒の所定経過時間中における水温変化を算出する温度差算出手段にて求められた上記温度差と予め設定した基準温度差とを比較判定する温度差判定手段とから構成し、

上記エンジン冷却水系の異常を軽視するように したことを特徴とするエンジンの冷却水系異常登 機装置。

3 . 発明の詳細な説明

【産業上の利用分野】

本発明は、エンジンの冷却水系異常を検出して 警報する装置に関し、詳しくは、冷却水温度の温 度変化に基づいて冷却水系の異常を検出するもの に関する。

【従来の技術】

【発明が解決しようとする問題点】

上述のような先行技術では、前者の場合は、エ

ンジン停止中におけるラジエータの 高結による 破 損を未然に防止する方策にとどまり、また後者の 場合は、例えば冷却水系の故障で温度が著しく変 化している時でも、この状態で冷却水温度の異常 を検出してエンジン回転数を制御するだけである ので、エンジン冷却水の異常上昇の原因を解明し て欠陥部分を修復する情報が得られない等の問題 がある。

本発明は、このような問題点を解決するためになされたもので、エンジン始勤後の暖機期間中にエンジン冷却水系の異常または故障を物知し、この異常によって生じる異常状態による運転を防止するためのエンジンの冷却水系異常警報装置を提供することを目的としている。

【同題点を解決するための手段】

上記目的を達成するため、本発明は、エンジンの冷却水路に設けられた水温センサと、エンジン回転数を検出するエンジン回転数センサと、上記各センサの検出値に基づいて所定の演算を行い、この演算の結果によって得られた信号を出力する

エルタンク4 。フューエルポンプ5 より送給される燃料をエンジン1 へ吸射するインジェクタ、6 は吸気管7 よりの吸入空気量をスロットルボディ8 において朝御するスロットルバルブ、9 はスタータスイッチである。

スタータスイッチ9の出力信号・エンジン1の 気 両内圧を検出する 同内圧センサ10の出力信号・ エンジン回転数センサ11の出力信号・およびサ12か シン1 内の冷却水路に設けられた水温センサ12か らの出力信号が、それぞれコントロールユニット3 内に けられたタイマ23(後述)によって設定が行われた 時された時間の変数と共に所望の演算が行われ、 エンジン1 内の冷却水の温度異常を判定し、常 と判定した時に、コントロールユニット3 からの 出力信号によって軽報装置13が作動される。

そして不改液温度が正規の温度と異なる浪度となって冷却水通路内で原結し、冷却水の循環が正常でないことを始勢時において検知することが可能となる。

【作 用】

上記構成に基づき、エンジン始動後の所定経過 時間中における水温変化による温度差が、予め設 定した基準温度差よりも低いと、コントロールユニットより出力信号が軽報装置に入力して、冷却 水系の異常または故障が報知される。

【寒 施 例】

以下、本発明の一実施例を図面に基づいて説明する。

第1図において、符号1 はエンジン、2 はコン トロールユニット3 の出力信号によって、フュー

第2図において、コントロールユニット3の構成および制御機能について述べる。

エンジン駆動状態判定手段20では、スタータスイッチ9からの出力信号と、エンジン1の気管内圧力を検出する阿内圧センサ10の出力信号Piと、エンジン回転数センサ11からの出力信号Neとが入力することによって、エンジン1が完爆状態にあると判定すると、暖機回転数検出手及21へ信号を出力する。

暖機回転数検出手段21では、エンジン駆動状態 判定手段20にてエンジン1が完爆状態にあると判 定した時の出力信号とエンジン回転数センサ11か らの出力信号とに基づいて、暖優回転数Neiを検 出し、完爆水温検出手段22へ信号を出力する。そ して完爆水温検出手段22では、水温センサ12から の出力信号Twと 受機回転数検出手段21からの 概回転数Neiとの出力信号に基づいて、完爆水温 Tw1を検出する。

一方、エンジン駆動状態判定手段20からの出力 信号がタイマ23へ入力し、タイマ23にて所定時間

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t sec を計時し、所定時間を経過すると所定時間 経過検出手段24に低号を出力し、所定時間経過検 出手段24の出力信号が水温検出手段25へ入力する。 水温検出手段25では、所定時間経過検出手段24か らの出力信号が入力すると、水温センサ12からの 出力信号に基づいて水温Tw2 を検出する。

次に上述の構成に基づき、本発明の動作を第3 図のフローチャート図によって説明する。

て特断されるので、冷却水の循環状態を確実に把 握することが可能である。

なお本実施例において、エンジン駆動状態判定 手段20への入力信号として筒内圧センサ10とエン ジン回転数センサ11とを併用したが、エンジン回 転数センサ11のみの入力信号としてもよい。この 場合、エンジン駆動状態を判定するエンジン回転 数は、暖機終了後のアイドリング回転数。例えば 600 ~800 гряを基準とする。

またタイマ23の設定値は、実験によりエンジンの水温吸機特性から決定し、水温が安定する時間を含めて決定する。

【発明の効果】

以上述べてきたように、本発明によれば、

エンジン始動後の所定時間におけるエンジン冷却水の温度変化による温度差を算出して、冷却水の温度変化による温度差を基準温度差と比較し冷却水系の異常または故障を判断するようにしたので、冷却水の循環状態を的確に把握することができる。

先ず、ステップ \$101においてスタータスイッチ 9 がオンか否かを判断し、スタータスイッチ 9 がオンの時にはステップ \$102にてエンジン1 が完備 状態か否かを判断し、エンジン1 が完爆 状態であるとステップ \$103にてタイマ 23がセットされると共に、ステップ \$104にて完爆水温 Twi が検出される。

次に、ステップ \$105にてタイマ 23の計時時間が 所定時間 t sec を を 2 過したか否か判断して、 所定 時間 t sec を 2 過するとステップ \$106にて 所定時間 を 3 後の水温 T w 2 を 検出し、ステップ \$107にて 完爆水温 T w 1 と 所定時間 t sec 径 過後の水温 T w 2 との温度差 ム t w を 算出し、ステップ \$108に て 求められた温度差 ム t w と 基準温度差 ム t o と を 比較する。 そして温度差 ム t w が 基準温度差 ム t o より低い時にはステップ \$109にて 警報 装置 13 を 作動し、 冷却水系の異常または 故障を 警報する。

上述のごとく冷却水系の異常が、エンジン1 が 完爆した直後の冷却水温 T W 1 と完爆後所定時間 経過後の冷却水温 T W 2 との温度差 Δ t W によっ

さらに、硬機状態で判断するので、冷却水系の 異常または故障が早期に判明し、エンジンを不調 の事故から守ることができる。

さらにまた、運転者へ冷却水系の異常を知らせ ることによって、迅速に異常対応策をとることが である

4. 図面の筒単な説明

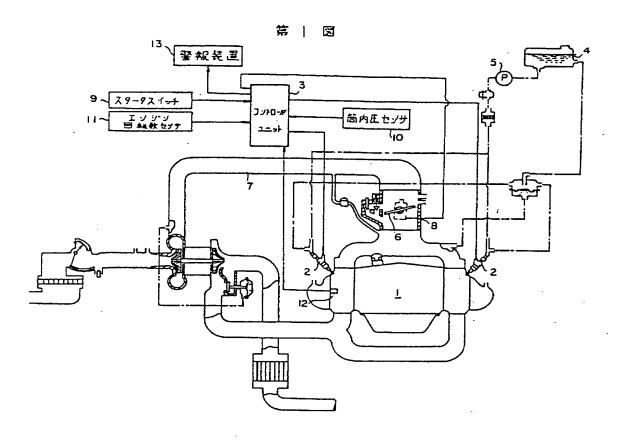
第1 図は本発明の概略全体構成図、第2 図はコントロールユニットのブロック図、第3 図は本発明の動作を示すフローチャート図である。

1 …エンジン、3 …コントロールユニット、11 …エンジン回転数センサ、12…水型センサ、26… 温度差算出手段、28…温度差判定手段。

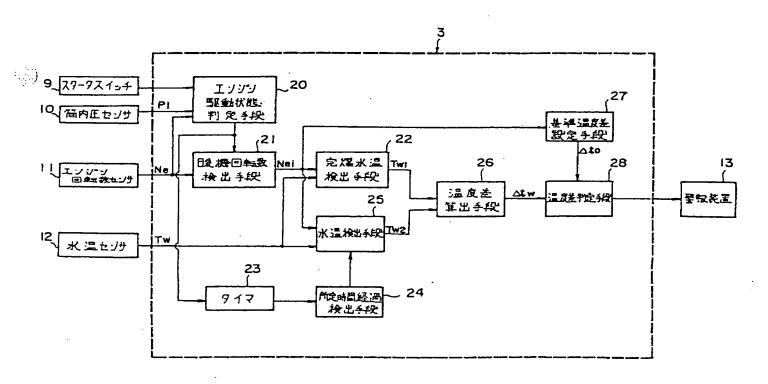
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第 2 図



第3図

